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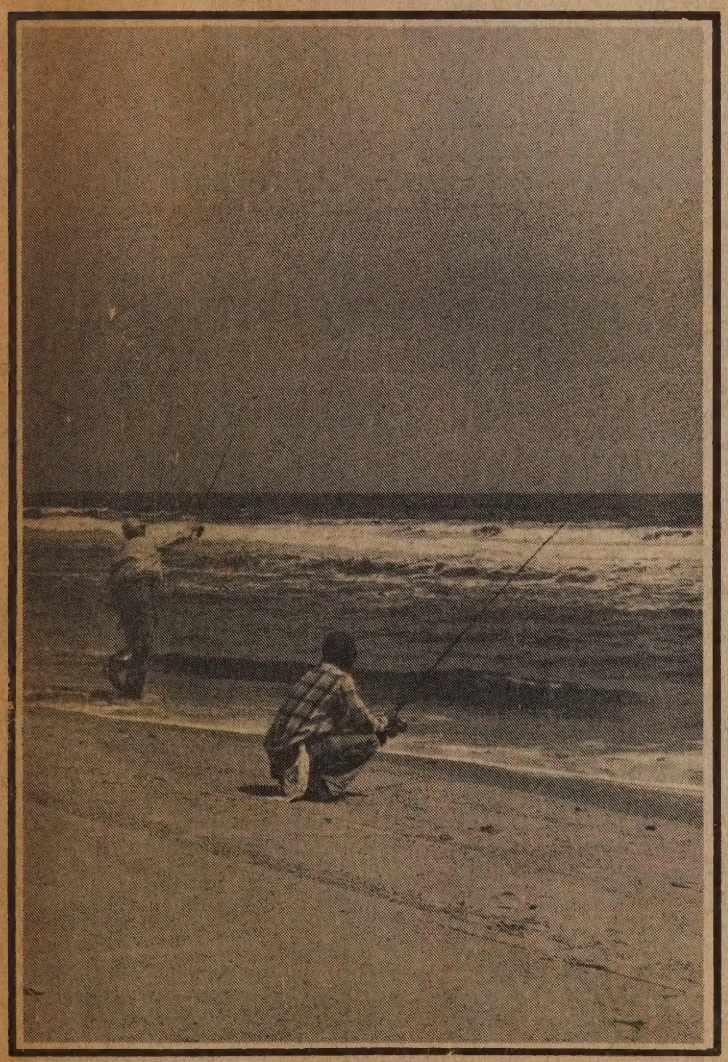
The Long Island FISHERMAN

AUGUST 29, 1974, ISSUE No. 33



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 9, Number 33 — August 29th, 1974

CONTENTS

SURF SIDE:
Home-Made Plugs for Blues ..... Doc Muller 6
FISHING SAND BEACHES ..... Vlad Evanoff 8
The BOTTOM Line
Snapper Fishing ..... Matt Ahern 10
Long Island's Marine Ecology
Part IV: FISH ANOMOLIES ..... Dr. William A. Muller 12
TRUE STORY OF EVANS' ROCK ..... Whiting Evans 14
IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH ..... Fred Guardineer 16
A Report to L.I. Sound Fishermen .... Sen. Pisani & Assbm. Mannix . 17

DEPARTMENTS:
Chum Lines 4
Club News 5
Fishing Reports 18
Solunar Tables 35
Classified Ads 38
Tide Tables 40

ABOUT THE COVER: White water forms over an outer sand bar, then becomes flatter in the deep through close to the beach. Look for fish here. Read "Fishing Sand Beaches" by Vlad Evanoff on page 8.

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UPDATING ON TUNA PROBLEM

I just saw a copy of the August 15 issue of The Long Island Fisherman including my article "Requiem for the Bluefin". Since that article was written during the winter, a number of changes have taken place which I'll quickly summarize for the edification of your readers.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has at least made some moves in that bluefin tuna research was switched from the west coast to the east coast. According to Frank Mather, observers have also been placed on the seiners which are voluntarily attempting to avoid schools of first-year tuna this year. The result of that is quite obvious in that sport fishermen have been catching large quantities of "football" size tuna this summer for the first time in many years. Unfortunately, all too many "sportsmen" are making hogs of themselves with these school tuna rather than tagging and returning most of the catch. Needless to say, it puts those of us who are trying to get the federal government to move in this matter in a difficult position when sports fishermen take large quantities of fish that we're asking the seiners to avoid.

Though the federal government hasn't taken any action in connection with the giant tuna as yet, the state of Massachusetts has jumped into the void and placed a two fish per day limit (or seasonal quotas) on both sport and commercial vessels fishing in that state's waters. They have also limited seining to vessels which have been traditionally engaged in the fishery; limited their fishing to the fall; and also limited their total catch.

In order to give the federal government the authority it needs to protect this species, sport fishing representatives such as the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, American League of Anglers, and Sport Fishing Institute are attempting to have the bluefin tuna listed as a "threatened species" under section four of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. At this point, at least, some actions have been taken, but much more remains to be done. The sportsman can do his part by writing to Robert W. Schoning, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235 and urging him to support listing the bluefin tuna as a "threatened species." As noted in the news release on page five of the August 15 issue, sportsmen should also engage in the tagging of at least a portion of their tuna catch in order to help provide the information that is so essential to proper regulation of the species. **Al Ristori.**

A SURFMAN RESPONDS

I am writing you in reference to your recent editorial challenging the "secretive" operations of the experienced surf fisherman to expose themselves to the mass media for the betterment of fishing and fun. I agree. However...the reason for keeping the "hot spots" under one's hat are more complex than meets the eye.

I began fishing the surf three years ago. I went fishless time and time again. Needless to say I bitched and moaned about your paper because I felt it neglected the surfman and capitalized on private and charterboat fishermen. (But I never missed an issue anyway). Every spare moment I could muster was spent at the beach, fishing, listening, watching, and moving around. I spoke with many other fishermen, tackle dealers, and myself more than I care to admit. After a year and a half of virtually catchless trips I finally began scoring. I now realize that although fishless, that 1½ yrs. was spent acquiring and storing knowledge and experience in the surf.

I now keep my information quiet, just like the fishermen I used to curse (under my breath of course). The only difference is that now I know why! And I think it's time you and your readers know why, and we'll both try to correct the situation.

All outdoor sports have this same problem and it can best be illustrated through examples:

A good duck hunting spot is "leaked" in the newspaper. The next weekend the place is crawling with hunters wearing flourescent orange jackets, in their shiny new aluminum boats yelling and laughing ip up while they're hunting;

A hot spot for chumming bass is "leaked". The next day, so-called fishermen are criss-crossing your chum slick, looking for the bass that are supposed to be there.

Now...would you call the duck hunter selfish if he did not broadcast a spot he spent many days and hours looking for if the spot will be overrun by people who will ruin his chances of success?

Before the so-called sharpies of the surfers begin opening up their magic bag of tricks (if there's such a thing) to the "public", the "public" is going to have to learn their manners!!

If you are at the beach and a fisherman lands a fish don't run over and cast over his shoulder. Give him room; crossed lines are aggravating and time-consuming. He may have been fishing for four hours waiting for the feed to start and now he has to miss part of it to untangle your line from his. Don't crowd fishermen. If fish are in the area then that's where they are—in the **area.**

When night fishing, don't shine headlights or flashlights on or around the water; it spooks fish and fisherman!

If you drive a buggy, watch where you're going. I usually throw my fish up on the beach until the action slows down. Then I'll put them on ice. I have had more than one fish squashed by hit and run surfmen.

Learn to cast fairly well **before** you venture into a group of casters. Nobody likes crossed lines or treble hooks in his ears. Night fishing is particularly demanding when it comes to a caster's skill and familiarity with his equipment.

When purchasing equipment, ask for assistance. A rod, reel, and lures that balance are no more expensive than those that don't.

Talk is cheap. Don't hesitate to ask questions. When the tide isn't right many of the regulars will be hanging around waiting. This is the time to ask questions. Contrary to popular opinion, most regulars will jump at the chance to help a sincere and courteous fisherman. (They like to show off their experience, too. P.S. Don't ask questions during a blitz!)

Whether it's duck hunting, boat fishing, fly fishing, bank fishing, or surf fishing, with a little common sense, inquiry, manners, and courtesy there will soon be no secrets between fellow enthusiasts.

P.S. Stripers are hitting tin on the first light in morning, incoming tide, at Democrat Point. With a little courtesy, there are enough fish for everyone....**Howard F. Guta, Massapequa.**

Howard, you write a darned good letter, which we hope was read by all. (Notice some of the basics mentioned: courtesy and familiarity with equipment. Good things to remember.)

We agree one hundred percent! and wouldn't want it any other way. But we really don't expect savvy surfmen to divulge all their hot information of the moment. I think many readers would be very grateful just for some luke-warm dope that isn't too old.

To give away something that is hard-

earned should be done sparingly and selectively, not only in fishing, but in all life. A poor, careless or sloppy angler will never appreciate what he is given for nothing, for he'll probably remain what he is. It is important, for reasons of accomplishment and self-satisfaction, that people work at achieving success.

Let us modify what may have been taken as a condemnation and a hard-nosed stand against top surfmen by saying that they can help sincere neophytes —not by always telling them when and where to go (wow!), but by helping them gain the ability to read water, to become familiar with equipment so they don't kill everyone on the beach or scare-off the fish, to rig a beach-buggy and learn how to dig it out of the sand, to select proper clothing—inner and outer, and things of this nature. You'll be getting them ready to become better companions on the beach (get used to the idea—they'll be there, good or bad) without wiping their noses for them.

Then, if you find out that they are okay, and accept them, give them a few hints about where to fish. If they're interested, they'll work at figuring out what you've told them. If not—the heck with them. They'll just blunder on in their own ways. But now YOU will have to work at avoiding THEM.

Even an apprentice at a trade is taught some basics. The skill is acquired through the learner's mental attitude, his physical abilities and lots of practice. We will not deny those things to the novice surfman.

Thanks for your letter. Hope it helped our readers on all fishing fronts.

Incidentally, if you want to keep those bass safe—not only from buggies, but also from prying eyes—bury them in the sand. But don't do as some of us have done by not leaving some marker at that location so you can find the fish later. Groping around in the dark (or light) and digging woodchuck holes all over the beach can be not only frustrating, but embarassing, too!

And not so incidentally: If you are mobbed by a bunch of jerks at Democrat Point because of your willingness to help, do three things. First, run them down with a buggy. Second, bury them deep. Third, let us know so we can lambaste the survivors—if any. Seriously—we're on your side; let us know what problems you have.

CLUB NEWS

NEW RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB IN BABYLON

A new dimension is being added to the gun club scene on Long Island.

It is the SUFFOLK MASONIC RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB, sponsored by Suffolk Post No. 23 of the Masonic War Veterans and with National Rifle Association accreditation.

Meetings are held at 8 P.M. on the first Monday of each month in the Masonic Hall, Babylon.

Memberships are invited from Masons in good standing belonging to any Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Masons, State of New York.

The word is; "You don't have to be an expert to belong. Great programs for all, novice through expert, are being developed. Want to help? We would like to have you!"

SQUADRON ANGLERS ANNUAL FISHING COURSE

The Squadron Anglers' popular annual fishing course will be held this year at Seaford High School, Seaman's Neck Road, Seaford, with registration scheduled Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 9th, 10th and 11th at 7:30 p.m.

The fee of $12 will cover eight Monday sessions of two hours 8 to 10 p.m. with lecturers coming from the club's amateur experts and from the ranks of professionals well-known throughout the island.

General fishing in local waters—for flounder, fluke, blacks, weaks and cod—will be discussed by Bill Bantel of Massapequa, a top fisherman in the club. Dick Merman of Shakespeare Co., will talk about spinning gear and light tackle, with an analysis of the different types of line.

Al Neaman, well-known bass fisherman, will tell where and how to catch the stripers, with a discussion on rigging mossbunkers and eels. Surf fishing will be Al Bentson's topic.

Bluefishing, chumming for stripers, trolling and chumming for tuna, and shark fishing are also topics that will be handled, with the lecturers to be Jack Carroll, Bill McFarland, and Bill Fisher, from the club, and Frank De Gaetano, of Eastern Reel. For further information, contact Al Schroeder, 541-4497.

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Home-Made Plugs for Blues

A couple of us are in Rhode Island this week trying to scare up some of those salt water piranhas that masquerade as bluefish.

I'm not going to bring too many of those expensive plugs and I'm not going to use the ones that I do bring unless the bass come out of their summer doldrums and decide to eat while we're there.

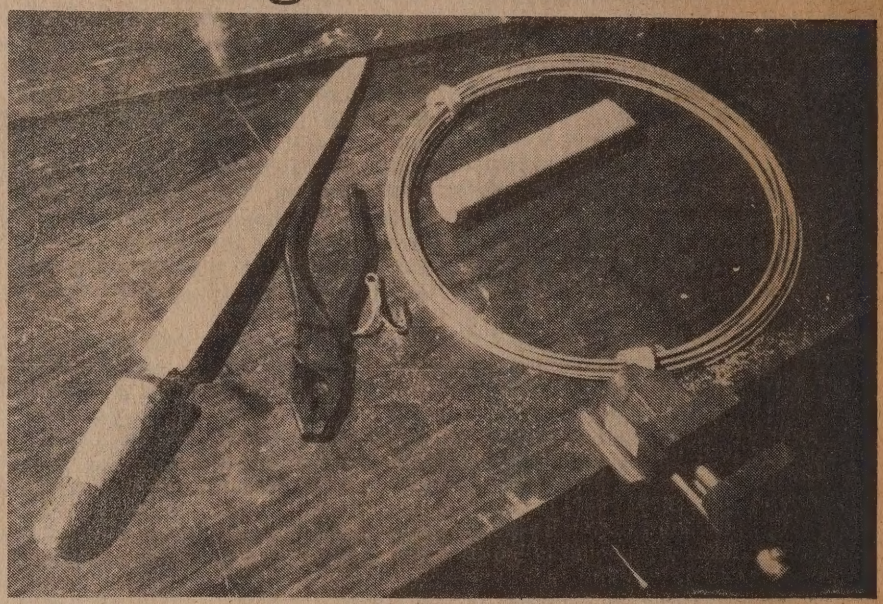
Instead, I'll use some very simple but very effective plugs that I made last winter. You can use any hardwood stock, or saw-off the legs of discarded chairs and old broom handles. One end of the 6-to 8-inch piece of wood should be left blunt while the other is cut at a 45 degree angle. Next drill through the plug (lengthwise) with a long-shaft 1/16" drill bit.

Run a ten inch length of galvanized wire through the drilled hole so that equal amounts of wire extend beyond the plug on either side. Begin at the front end (45 degree cut) and, with a needle-nosed pliers, bend the wire in a loop and then bend the free end around the base of the wire at least twice. The loop and securing twists should be about ½ inch long when you have finished. Repeat this process on the blunt end, but be sure that the free end is wound around the shaft of wire until the entire wire segment is snug within the plug and does not rotate easily. If you wish to be positive about a tight fit you can fill the hole in the plug with epoxy glue before you secure the wire. Crimp an open eye number 3/0 treble, 3X strong, to the loop on the blunt end and you're ready.

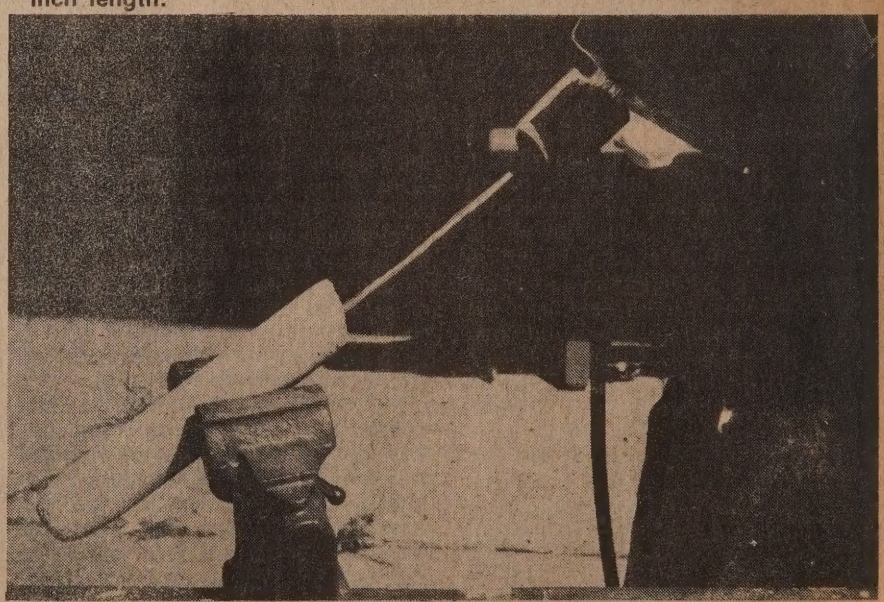
It really isn't necessary to paint the plug for blues because they really attack the commotion when they're in a feeding frenzy, but a coat of bright paint sprayed on liberally wouldn't hurt. The middle treble is a complete waste of time and the few hits you miss because it isn't there will be more than made up for since the fish will be easier to land and unhook.

There are several variations of this basic plug which are also useful at times. Instead of cutting the front end at an angle, you can scoop out the wood and form a one-inch-deep, cup-shaped depression. This plug makes an awful lot of noise and is particularly useful as the school begins to break up and spread out. In another variation the front end of the plug is cut twice at a 45 degree angle on opposite sides. This plug doesn't make too much noise, but it does dart around irregularly; sometimes the blues prefer it to a popper.

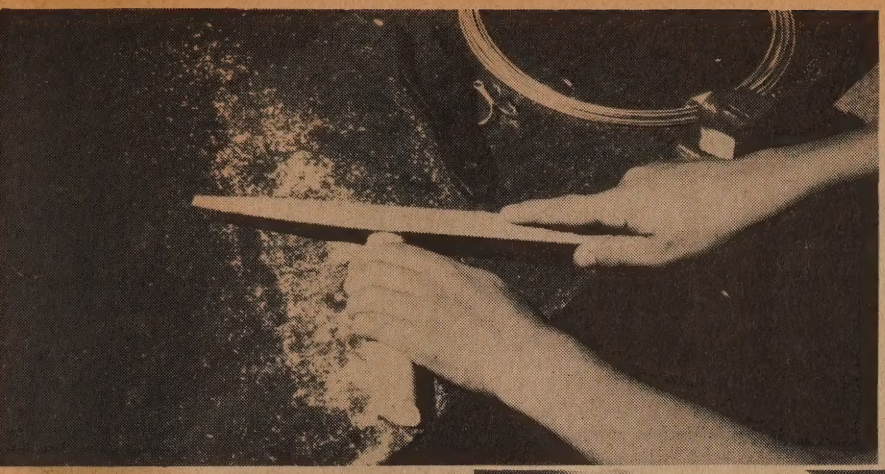
The entire process can be completed in less than an hour, and at a cost of pennies instead of dollars. In addition, you'll get a big kick out of catching a fish on a plug that you made with your own hands.



The basic tools and raw materials. The plug has already been cut to six inch length.

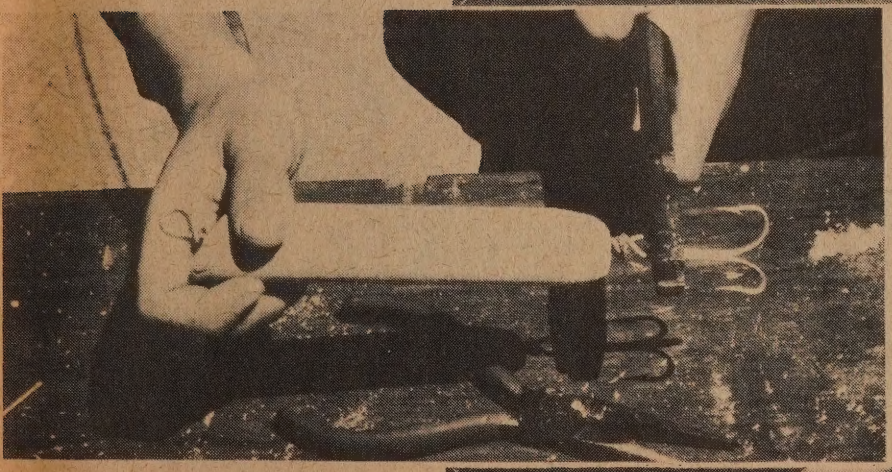


A long shaft drill bit facilitates drilling a small hole through the length of the plug.



The blunt end may be tapered with a wood rasp, while the slanted end may be slightly scooped in order to improve the spray of water pushed by the plug upon retrieve.

A ten inch piece of galvanized wire is forced through the drilled hole and the end is wound tightly around the shaft of wire to form a loop.



A 3/0 treble is crimped on the rear loop of wire with a blunt-nosed pliers.

The finishing touches. The plug can be lightly sanded and given a quick coat of paint.

Fishing Sand Beaches

by Vlad Evanoff

Long Island surf anglers are still fortunate in that they have many miles of sand beaches, especially along the south shore, which can be fished. However, fishing from the beach itself is better as you go out toward the eastern end of the Island, which has fewer jetties and more sharply sloping beaches than the western end. Jetties and breakwaters tend to flatten the beaches and fill in many spots and there are fewer sloughs or troughs or holes which can be fished from the beach itself. Here it is better to go out on the jetty or breakwater than fish from the sand beach.

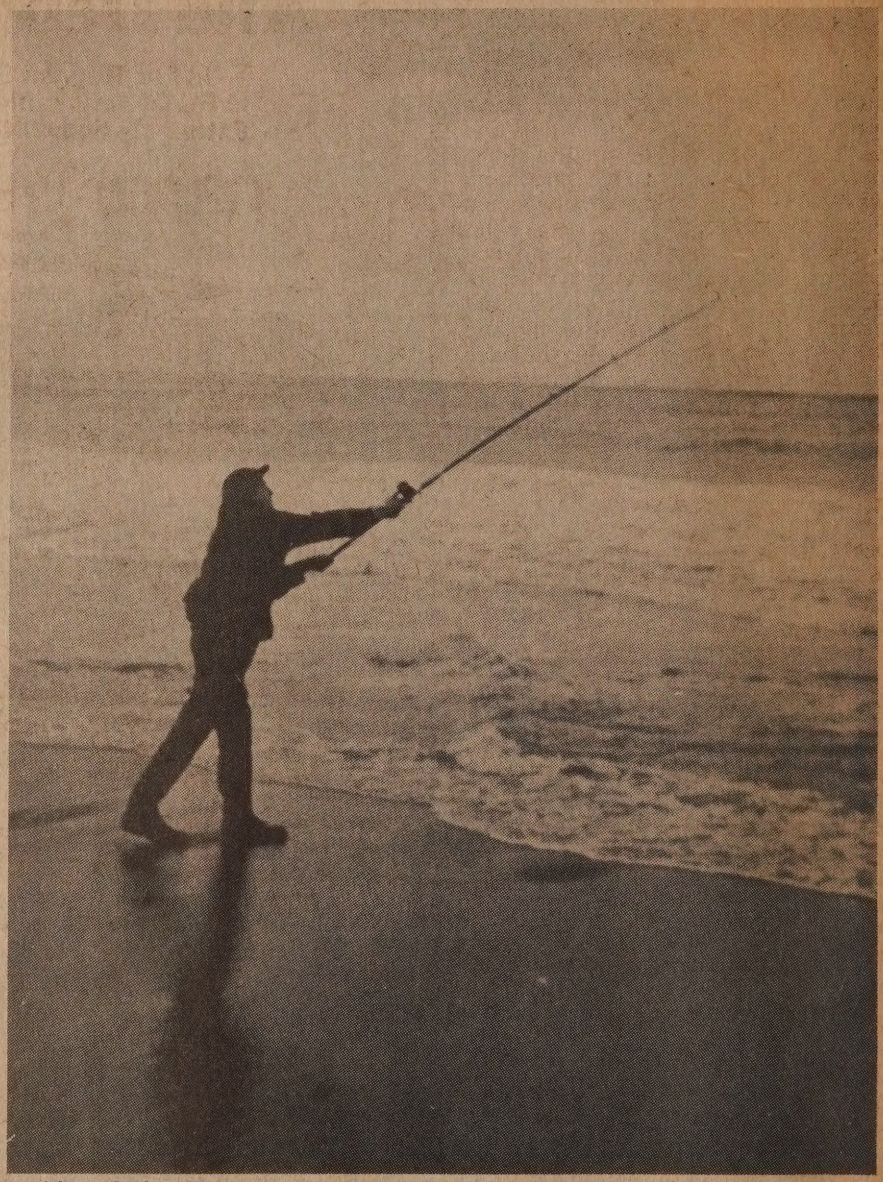
But as you go out toward Jones Beach, Fire Island, the Hamptons and Montauk there are fewer jetties and you have some good water that can be fished right from the beach. Locating fish in the surf along a sand beach is easy if you see other anglers lined up fishing and catching fish, birds working, baitfish leaping, or the fish themselves breaking.

It is when these obvious signs are missing that it becomes more difficult to locate fish along a sandy beach. Then the veteran surf angler, who knows how to "read" the water and is familiar with the bottom formations or structure, has the advantage. However, even for a beginner there are many clues and signs which indicate the type of bottom, depth of the water, currents, wave action, bait and food which may be found at a given spot.

The color of the water, for example, is a good indication of depth. Dark blue, dark green or green water indicates deeper water—usually a hole, depression, slough, channel or cut. Generally these spots harbor or trap food and baitfish and are prime feeding locations for larger fish.

When you see light green or yellow-green calm water you know that the spot is shallow. When the water gets rough these shallow spots turn brown or sand-colored if the sand is stirred up. White water or foamy water also indicates shallow spots. Such water is usually found over sand bars or flat beaches. Surf fish will often venture into these areas if there is enough water to cover them and some kind of food or baitfish to attract them.

The action of the waves also provides a clue to the depth of the water and type of bottom. Waves breaking some distance from shore indicate a sand bar or gently sloping beach. Where they first break and curl indicates a drop-off, and surf fish often feed there. In fact, it's always a good idea to cast your lure beyond the first line of breakers and reel it through the white water.



Although this Far Rockaway angler is fishing from the sand, he might do better from the jetties—especially at the ends.

When big waves do not curl and break until they reach shore, it means that the beach slopes sharply with deeper water close to shore. Crabs, sand bugs and clams are washed out by the breaking waves and baitfish get tossed around in the turbulence, so you can often take fish with short casts since they will venture closer to shore to feed. Work your lure right up to the beach or make short casts with a bait rig.

If you notice the waves curl and break, turn white, then stop foaming and pass quietly over a darker spot, it means there's a hole, pocket, slough or trough inside an outer bar. These spots are favorite hangouts for striped bass, weakfish, channel bass and kingfish. They lie in wait for baitfish, crabs, sand bugs and clams or other food to get washed out on the bar and get swept into the deeper spot. Cast your lure up on the bar and reel it into the hole or trough.

Outer sand bars usually have some kind of break or cut through which the water enters and leaves. Such cuts or breaks are usually deeper than the nearby water and the current is strong with a rip being created outside. These

breaks can be located on both ends of a sand bar, on one end, or right in the middle. Food gets trapped, washed out and tossed around in these breaks or cuts. They are good locations to fish.

Inlets or rivers entering the ocean along sandy beaches are also excellent for surf fishing. There is usually a series of sand bars outside these inlets and plenty of white water and turbulence, especially when the tide is running out against the incoming waves. The best fishing usually occurs during the last two or three hours of the outgoing tide, and during the change to incoming water. Inlets are good most of the time, but are especially productive in the spring and fall when gamefish come into the bays through the inlets or hang outside to intercept baitfish which are leaving and entering. Inlets are natural funnels that should always be investigated by the good surfman.

Beaches with many sand bars, or an outer bar and a deep slough or trough, are good places to fish when the water is rough. The waves break up on the bars, creating plenty of white water, then lose some of their force in the deeper areas. On the other hand, when the water is calm or moderate look for a sharply-sloping beach where there is deep water which can be reached with a short cast. Most of the wave action and any white water will be right up on the beach, and fish move in closer to the beach to feed in the white water.

You can often locate the deeper holes, sloughs, troughs, breaks and cuts along a sand beach by studying the shoreline from a cliff, sand dune or hill; you can also spot baitfish or breaking fish better.

The angler who fishes sand beaches must continually explore and study the shoreline. Sand beaches are always changing because of shifting sands, erosion, wave action, currents and storms. A section of beach which was poor last season may become hot this year. The sand bar which produced so many fish last fall may have disappeared by spring or moved down the beach some distance. It pays to go down to the beach after a big storm or hard blow, and especially each spring after the winter storms are over, to study the shoreline and note what changes have taken place.

One good way to get some exercise and locate fish along a sandy beach is to make about three casts in one spot, then move down the line about 50 feet and make three more casts. If you make the three casts at different angles you'll cover more area. I've often covered a mile or two of beach in this way and even worked my way back, all the while trying different lures.

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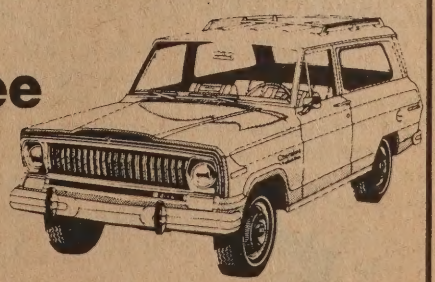

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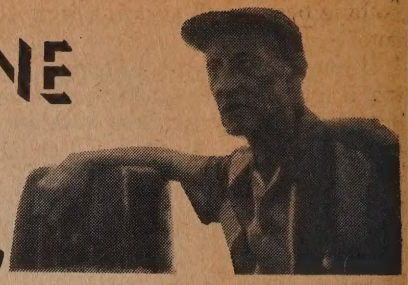
THE BOTTOM LINE



Snapper Fishing *with Matt Ahern*

"Gee, mister. Are they biting?"

Startled, I whirled around, still holding the struggling snapper I had just caught. A boy about fourteen was standing several feet back of me, spinning rod in one hand, bucket in the other, an embarrassed grin on his face.

"I'm sorry if I scared you, mister," he said, coming nearer and peering into my fish bucket. "Hey, you're doing all right. Mind if I fish here, too?"

"Be my guest," I replied, baiting up with a fresh spearing.

He settled himself, impaled a spearing on his hook, noticed at what depth I was fishing, and adjusted his bobber accordingly.

Intending to be helpful, I nodded my head toward the area I had been fishing. "Cast over there—this side of those old spilings—and let the tide carry the bait along. Like this." I flipped open the bail and made a cast. "Now, watch."

The bobber drifted for a few feet, suddenly bounced twice, and went under with a rush. I raised the rod tip smartly. The hooked snapper made a sidelong dash, his glinting, brassy side flashing in the sun as he ran in a tight arc. A few seconds later I lifted out a nice snapper, removed the hook, and dropped him in the bucket.

I offered a few more suggestions, but this kid didn't need lessons from me. He hooked fish after fish with expert ease; he proved a past master at snapper fishing. There is a Huck Finn in every neighborhood.

When we quit, we each had a bucket of seven-to nine-inch snappers, and had returned many smaller ones to live and fight again somewhere.

Snappers are great sport for all ages and many salt water fishermen will agree that the conquest of snappers first launched them into a lifetime interest in fishing.

Snapper fishing has a special appeal all its own. Fishermen are never happy when catching small fish, but they will deliberately go out of their way to catch snappers. There is something about these small bluefish that is irresistible to most fishermen. Endowed with all the savage trickery, stamina, and fighting ability of the adult fish, they seek out and attack anything resembling food, making them great fun to catch. Seldom does the fisherman fail to fill a bucket with these tasty fish.

The spawning habits of most fish caught around Long Island is considered an open book to fishery scientists. They know how and where such fish as flounders, fluke, weakfish, porgies, sea bass, et cetera, spawn—even to the water temperature necessary for successful hatchings—but the spawning habits of bluefish are still cloaked in a mantle of mystery.

However, mystery or no mystery, one thing the fisherman knows is that from about middle August on into early October, snappers are available from boats, piers, canals, and any shoreline with sufficient depth to entice baitfish. Piers jutting into the ocean, breakwaters and jettys along ocean fronts and inlets can also be depended upon to produce good fishing. There are few places snappers will not venture for food.

The nice thing about snapper fishing is its utter simplicity. Tackle is no problem, as the standard snapper rod is the long, whippy bamboo pole sold by the thousands at all tackle and hardware stores each summer.

They are cheap and take lots of abuse, but do have a major drawback: unless you are within walking distance of the place you intend fishing, their length can be a nuisance when transported by car or other conveyance. It is much better to purchase the kind that break down into two or three sections. These cost but a few cents more, but will pay in convenience and ease of handling.

Rigging the snapper pole is easy. All that is needed is a length of line about a foot longer than the rod, a plastic or cork bobber, and a snapper hook. These hooks are known by the old-timers as Bridgeport snapper hooks, but if you are unsure ask the man behind the counter for snapper hooks; he'll know what you mean. You can also use a Carlisle hook in sizes two to four.

Stay away from the regular shanked hooks, such as the Sproat. Snappers may be small, but their mouths are armed with many strong, needle-sharp teeth which makes it easy for them to cut through hook snells. If the Sproat is all you have, use a four-inch piece of fine wire between the hook and leader.

The best line to use on these bamboo rods is a length of ten pound monofilament. If you use a substitute, be sure to include a three foot piece of monofilament for a leader. While snappers are bold, there are times when they become line shy; the leader will help overcome this tendency.

The important thing to remember is not to use too long a line with the rod as there is no reel to take in slack. Try to hook your fish and lift him in with one motion. Any slack line is apt to mean a lost fish.

Use a couple of split shot, or a medium sized clincher sinker above the hook snell. This will help to keep the bobber upright, and also aid the fish to overcome its buoyancy. Should you find the terminal tackle tangling or wrapping around the line, this is easy to overcome: just stop its forward motion before it enters the water. This also applies to any of the small lures you may use with a spinning rod.

Although the bobbers commonly used are round, I prefer the long, slender type. They are more sensitive and offer no resistance when the snapper moves off with the bait. Regardless of what kind you use, it must be adjusted, to present your bait at the proper level. This is important because there are days when snappers will prefer one feeding depth over others. Snappers are caught at various levels, but if you find the exact depth you will get more action.

Snappers will take a variety of baits: spearing, live killies and strips of fish bait all work well. Strips of snapper, or squid, will sometimes prove irresistable. The best, though, is a fresh spearing. Frozen baits will produce fish, too, but

nothing beats fresh spearing from the net.

If you plan to do much snapper fishing, it will pay to invest in an umbrella net. Let down in shallow water over sand bottom and baited with canned cat food; it will produce a day's bait in minutes.

If you expect to fish from a boat, consider using chum. Frozen bunker chum, mixed with sea water to the consistency of thin soup and ladled overboard at intervals, will soon have the surface boiling with snappers. You can stretch your supply with tins of cat food.

Until the advent of light spinning tackle, snappers were usually the fun fish of grandpa and the kids. Not so today, as more and more anglers are turning to the light spinning rods, reels, and lures for their snapper fishing. A light, six foot rod, with matching reel filled with six pound test monofilament, will enable you to cast any of the light lures now on the market.

Small Kastmasters, Sidewinders in blue and nickel finish to resemble small mossbunkers, and various other shiny lures in those styles are readily accepted by snappers. They should be cast as far as possible, allowed to sink a few feet, and then reeled back with just enough speed to impart the necessary action. This type of fishing is sport to the nth degree.

If you wish, you can dispense with the lures and use whole spearing—as with the bamboo rod. With this method, cast as far as possible and slowly reel the bait back. If there are any snappers around, you will have one immediately. This is a good method to use wherever the tide moves slowly. You will also find the bigger fish hugging bottom after middle September. This method is sure to put them in your bucket.

Snappers make tasty eating. The smaller ones should be pan-fried, but the larger ones make delicious filets if dipped into a mixture of flavored bread crumbs, egg and milk, and fried in bacon drippings. You'll be glad the snapper is so plentiful because after tasting them this way, there won't be enough to satisfy your appetite.

Go snapper fishing this summer, and find out what sport these fish can provide. You are sure to go back for more.

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Long Island's Marine Ecology Part IV:

Fish Anomolies

by Dr. William A. Muller

The author and the Long Island Fisherman wish to express their sincere appreciation to Mr. Phillip Briggs, fisheries biologist for the D.E.C. and Mr. Clarence R. Hickey Jr. research assistant in marine biology for The New York Ocean Science Laboratory-Montauk for their practical assistance and guidance in the preparation of this manuscript.

It is incumbent upon us to establish, before proceeding with further discussion, that the causes of structural abnormalities in fish are poorly understood. As Clarence R. Hickey so aptly phrased it—an abnormal fish "...is a physically handicapped animal." Perhaps another way of putting that which may help to clarify the point is to think of fish anomalies as birth defects in fish. Then perhaps it is easier to accept that there are many causes of the afflictions. Thus we caution the reader that we will discuss what is known or suspected about fish anomalies and that we will **not** automatically blame all fish deformities on pollution.

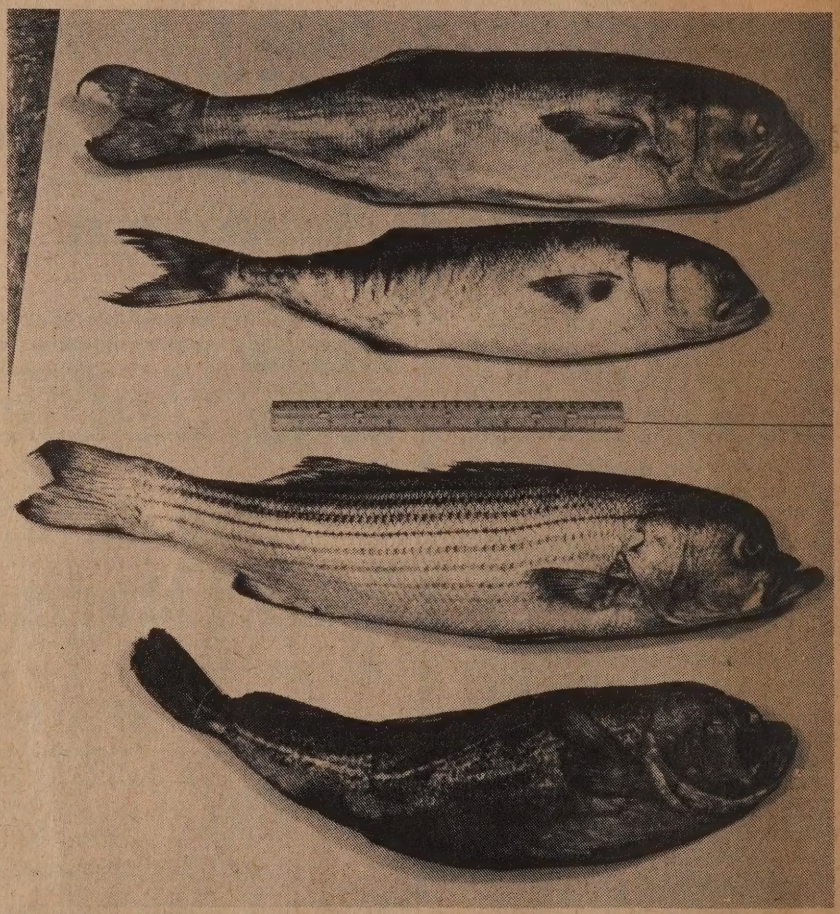
Although a variety of fish anomalies have already been reported and studied, it is suspected by fisheries biologists that many other anomalies remain unreported. The list of species having been reported with deformities runs the gamut from zebra fish to killies to cod and striped bass. Because of space restrictions this article will deal mainly with the fish species that are common in Long Island waters and are of interest to fishermen, while concentrating on the four most common anomalies.

Spinal malformations.

Although the anomalies that fall into this category include a variety of mild and severe effects, the most commonly observed result is the "hump-backed" or "wavy-backed" fish. Some of the species affected in this way are the weakfish, menhaden, common killifish and spearing, as well as fresh water species such as trout and salmon.

Pugheadedness

The pug-nosed condition is a very common deformity and has been reported from many continents. Fishermen and ichthyologists are very interested in this condition, and a significant body of work is now in progress in order to fully understand the causes and effects of a variety of skull deformities which may be severe or mild, and may or may not affect the feeding behavior of the individual specimen. Several years ago I caught a pughead striped bass of about ten pounds. It was taken along with others of about the same size from the same school and since the affliction in this individual was mild, the weight of the specimen did not vary from other members of the school. However, age-length-weight determinations were not performed and it is impossible to be certain that the feeding of the specimen was not affected.



Varying degrees of pugheadedness in three species of Atlantic coast fishes. From top to bottom: Bluefish, striped bass, cod. (Photo courtesy Clarence R. Hickey)

The effects of the pug-nosed condition may include difficulty in feeding and difficulty in moving water over the gills.

Fins

Anomalies involving the fins were among the first structural variations noted in fishes. The first reports are over 400 years old and include a wide range of effects and severity. The condition may involve the partial or complete loss of a fin or fins, shortened fin bones, or missing fin bones.

Ambicolorate fish

These are a group of anomalies involving the unusual distribution of skin pigments. Among the species most commonly affected is the common winter flounder, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus.* The degree of affliction is varied and may be nothing more severe than a few white spots on

the back or a few black spots on the underside. However, large patches of skin may be affected, and in some cases flounders have been found that are either all black or all white.

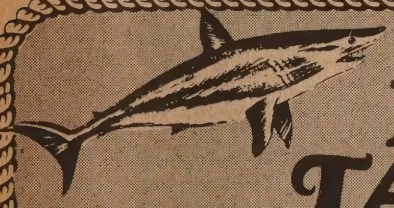
Causes of Fish Anomalies

In most cases genetic error has been suspected by investigators as a principal cause of abnormalities in fish—as it is among humans. That is, at one stage or another prior to fertilization, the genetic material (DNA) has been changed so that the normal sequence of information supplied by the DNA has been altered, resulting in an abnormal physical appearance. This appears to be especially true for conditions of the spine, pugheadedness, and unusual coloration in fish. However, it must be pointed out that although changes in DNA do spontaneously and naturally occur, there is significant evidence that environmental stresses do induce alterations in the normal genetic processes. Therefore, further study is needed in order to determine the degree to which structural anomalies fall within the normal variation in genetic function, and to what degree they are induced by pollution and pollution-related causes.

Even after the fertilization process has been completed without any unusual breakdown in the genetic chain, the growing embryo is vulnerable to many influences. Again, some of the embryonic errors can be considered to be "normal." This appears to be especially true for anomalies of the fins and, to a lesser extent, the pug-nosed condition. Yet, the embryo is affected by many changes in environmental conditions, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity (amount of salt), pesticides, toxic chemical wastes, radiation, and sewage wastes, among others. These environmental factors can cause errors in cell division or cell function

(Continued on page 15.)

Vary degrees of wavy-backed anomaly in spearing, *Menidia menidia.* **(Photo by Carl O. Mamay, and submitted courtesy of Dr. Herbert Austin and Clarance R. Hickey)**



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The TRUE Story of Evan's Rock at Montauk

by Whiting Evans

I've heard so many garbled accounts of how the rock which bears my name was so called that I thought the actual story should be told. The time of the event was definitely in October; the year—about 1932; the place—Montauk Point.

But first, a word of explanation to those not familiar with the various and sundry names which are attached to almost every slight point of land; each cove, each hole, bar or bend existing along the beach at Montauk. Most of these appelations have no significance whatsoever to the angler who fishes from a boat; it is only to that peculiar breed of individual (known as a surfcaster) to whom these designations are of particular interest. For example, starting east from the jetties at Montauk Lake towards the lighthouse at the Point, and thence west to Hither Hills are such names as Gin Beach, Shagwong Point, Shagwong Cove, Rocky Point, Clark's Cove, North Bar, False Bar, Evans' Rock, Jones' Reef, Scott's Hole, Montauk Light, Turtle Cove, Brown's, Green Banks, Stony Brook, King's Point, Life Boat Bend, Caswell's Coconuts, Amsterdam, Morgan's, Frisbee's, Cottages, Poole's Rock, Ditch Plains, the Indian, Dead Man's Cove, the Cabana's, Umbrella Stand, the Transformers, Gurney's and Hither Hills. If my memory has left out any spot, my apologies to it!

It is only through a knowledge of where these spots are that one fisherman can relate to another where he happened to hit "that big one". Or where that "blitz" of the previous night took place. Sometimes, I've found, nature does repeat itself and a school of bass or blues will re-appear at the same spot on the following day on the same tide. But more often than not, all the expectant fisherman finds are a lot more incurable optimists like himself. Always, "hope springs eternal!"

And now we come to the subject matter of this story: how that big rock which lies on the shore between what is known as "False Bar" and Jones' Reef got its name. I've heard some fishermen refer to a rock which stands about 300 feet offshore from "my" rock speak of it as Evans' Rock. Tain't so! At high water my rock is surrounded by water; at low water, it is high and dry.

In 1930 at Montauk only a few fishermen wore rubber boots. Waders such as are used today were practically unknown. In those days most surf fishermen wore high leather boots. When a wave washed up on the beach we'd skedaddle out of its way to keep from getting wet.

One exception comes to mind: About this time I remember one day in October during a mild northeaster; raining slightly; a fairly good breeze blowing ashore at Jones' Reef; plenty of white water. You could see big schools of bunkers being chased inshore by hordes of big stripers. These fish were too far out for us to reach, however, even when we used the usual 3-ounce tin jig in which the hook's shank was inbedded. And then, down to the Reef came a man in a truck. His name was Joe Silverman, who used to be a member of a fisherman's group camping at Caswell's Point. He came down to the beach wearing a pair of hip boots over which he wore yellow oil-skins which he'd tied around the ankles with some cord. Out into the surf he went, and climbed up onto a rock from which he was able to reach the school of bass. The memory of his catch that day remains indelibly impressed in my mind. Each fish was well over 30 pounds and he had exactly 13 of them. In retrospect, I just don't understand why I and the other on-lookers didn't say "to Hell with getting wet" and wade right in to take our share of those whoppers. The next time I came down to Montauk though, you can be sure I wore a similar outfit.

On the day Evans' Rock was named, I arrived at the Point under the light at daybreak. That day also was bleak and wet—a mild nor'easter. When I got to the shore I saw quite a few surf fishermen casting all manner of lures into the surf and I knew a fair number of them. At this time in my life, please remember, I'd been coming to Montauk for two years and never once had I caught a striped bass! I was beside myself in an anxiety to catch one of these fish! When I saw a man I knew I asked him if there'd been any action. His negative reply caused me to say "Doggone it! Here I've been coming to Montauk for two years and I've never caught a bass. (And here I asked what is probably the stupidest question any fisherman can ask another.) Where is a good spot for me to go to get one?" (As if he himself wouldn't be there then)

I can't remember now just who these men were but I wish I could. One of them, just for laughs, replied in this manner, "I tell you what, Whitey. Just keep walking up the beach (pointing towards North Bar) until you get to a big rock—the biggest on the beach. That's a wonderful spot and I'm sure you'll get your fish". Not realizing that no bass had been taken in the area of this rock for many a year, and that none of the surf casters even bothered to cast a lure there, I enthusiastically replied to his generously given advice,

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"Golly. That's mighty nice of you. I'll sure give it a try" and off I set.

Later on I was told that all of the guys at the Point that morning had themselves a real hearty laugh at my gullibility as I optimistically hiked over the rocks towards a goal which, in their opinion, was bound to be a wild goose chase. When I got to the rock and had laboriously climbed on top of it and made my first cast with a block tin jig, my sincere belief that I would connect became a reality. I was at last hooked into a bass, one which weighed exactly 29½ pounds. And this one wasn't the last. Fishing there all alone except for the gulls, I finally had beached seven stripers, all of which were over 25 pounds in weight.

While I was fighting the last fish, the group at the Point, having failed to take a fish, happened to see me from the road and all of them came trooping down to join me in my fishing orgy. And, just at that time, the school of fish which had been cooperating so nicely with me, decided to move out to less hazardous waters! From then on, that rock became "Evans' Rock".

The thought occurred to me some time ago: To have a rock named after you while you're ALIVE—that's something! Usually, things are named after people when they're dead and gone. So I decided that I wanted the name of Evans' Rock to stay alive. As a result of that decision I included a request in my will that when my body was no longer alive and kicking, Evans' Rock would be my memorial stone. A bronze plaque announcing this fact will be fastened by bronze bolts deeply into the rock by a stone mason so that some vandal or thief will find it most difficult to remove. Also, future generations of surf casters will find it a lot easier to climb to the rock's top than before. I've instructed my survivors to have easily-reached notches to be cut into its sides for this purpose. Anything at all for the surf-casters!

And woe betide any fisherman who keeps a bass under 16 inches! I'll haunt him for the rest of his days!

FISH ANOMOLIES

(Continued from page 13.)

that results in a deformed animal.

Disease cannot be overlooked as an important causative agent of fish anomalies. Many abberations have been reported and attributed to micro-organisms, such as viruses and bacteria, as well as functional diseases such as hormonal imbalances and vitamin deficiencies.

It was originally my intention to discuss environmental causes separately from considerations of genetics, disease, and embryonic growth. However, it is unadvisable to do so. Pollution in its various forms cannot cause anomalies in and of themselves without an assist from an existing biological process unless the pollution effect erodes a hole in fish tissue or destroys an organ, in which case the animal would most likely have died and not have been observed or recorded.

Environmental conditions are now, and have been continuously interacting with biological phenomena to produce changes in living things. Some of these changes are beneficial and others are harmful. The beneficial ones eventually become part of the normal condition for that species, and thus help it to survive. The harmful ones usually cause the death of the animal or reduce its efficiency, thus minimizing the chance that the information will be passed on to future generations.

What I am suggesting is that many of the observed anomalies may be part of nature's continuous process of experimentation (evolution) and may help the species to survive in the future. Other anomalies may be induced by man's pollution. We should continue to sponsor research aimed at determining these distinctions so that we may eliminate our behaviors which are impinging upon the rights of other animals on the planet.

You can be of help in these research efforts. If you catch a deformed fish, especially those with pugheadedness, wavy-backs, and fin anomalies, you can bring the specimen to the New York Ocean Science Laboratory, Montauk, L.I. However, if you cannot deliver the **uncleaned** fish in good condition, please record the following information and forward it, along with 10 scales, to the address that appears below.

1. species
2. date, time, place, and method of capture
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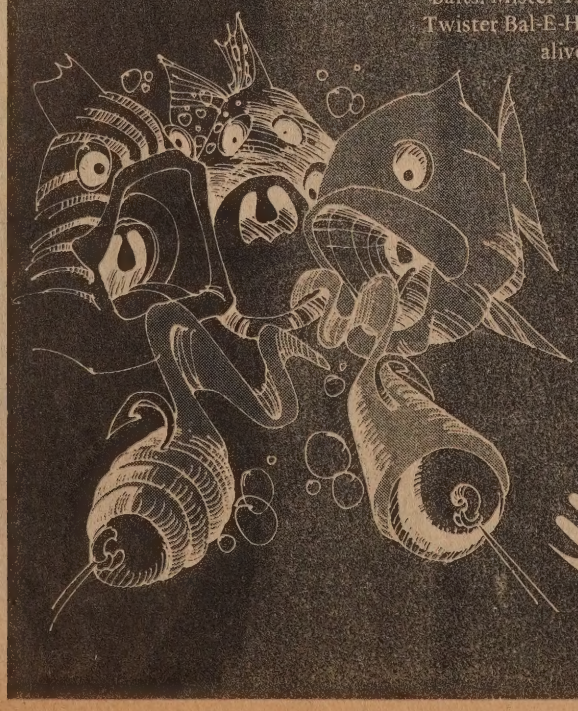

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INNKEEPER WALT McGROARY

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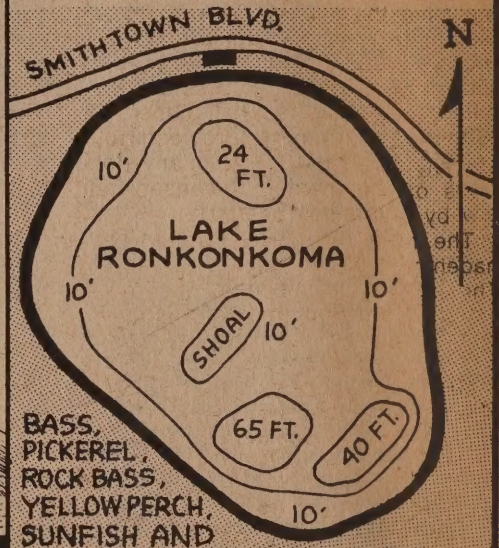

BASS, PICKEREL, ROCK BASS, YELLOW PERCH, SUNFISH AND BULLHEADS ARE THE RESIDENT FISH.

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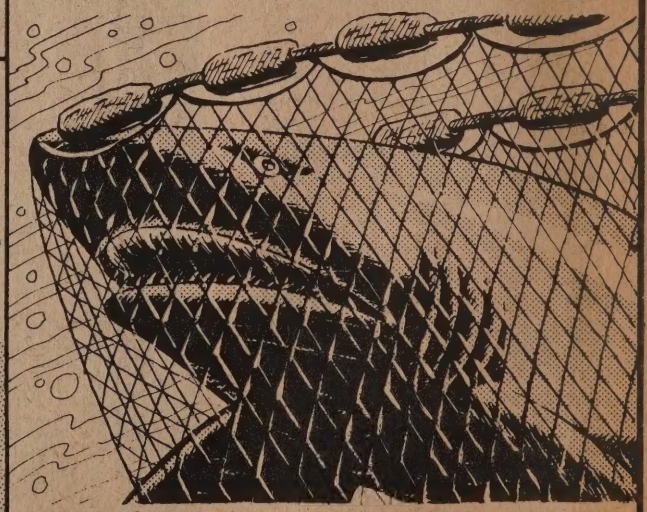


SAND TIGER SHARKS HAVE MADE SOME ATTACKS BUT ARE NOT CONSIDERED CONFIRMED MANEATERS - AND A SHARK THAT WILL TEAR UP A GILLNET CAN'T BE ALL BAD!!

A Report to Long Island Sound Fishermen

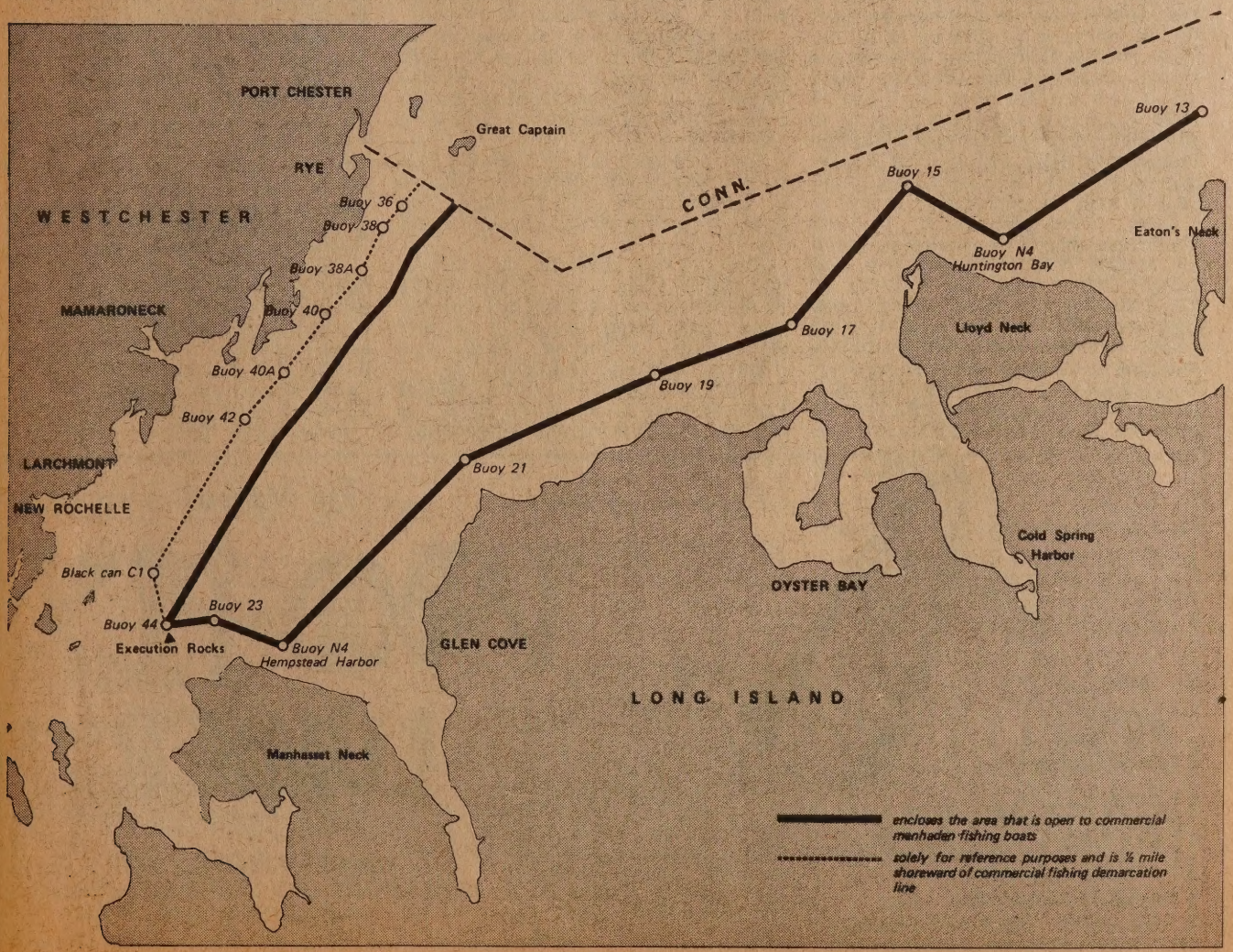
The following is reprinted from a pamphlet prepared by Senator Joe Pisani and Assemblyman Dick Mannix, of New York, who fought for and won our "bunker bill." The exception is that we have substituted the LIF number for reporting complaints. We,ll see they get to the proper party.

You are probably aware that the law banning commercial mossbunker fishing from the inshore waters of Long Island Sound is now in effect. We have prepared this pamphlet for your information and protection as an interested saltwater sports fisherman. With the handy chart in the centerfold, you should be able to detect any violations of this hard-won conservation law by commercial netters.

The fight in Albany for our menhaden bill was a long and difficult one. The commercial interests which were scraping the Sound bottom for menhaden opposed us at every turn. But, with the help of sports fishermen and their organizations, as well as other conservationists, we have together achieved what we hope and believe will be an effective protection bill.

Our new law, which creates a marine sanctuary where commercial menhaden fishing is forbidden, is designed to preserve an abundant supply of these fish, which are a valuable and preferred food source for striped bass and bluefish. If unrestricted commercial netting had been permitted to continue throughout Long Island Sound waters, there was a very real danger that the elimination of menhaden would have driven the stripers and bluefish from the Sound. Published reports of menhaden taken by commercial fishermen had already indicated a decline in the supply—an observation which any fisherman could confirm.

Now that we have passed our bill, its effective enforcement will largely depend on you. Use the chart on the centerfold not only as a guide for your own fishing but also as a map of areas forbidden to the bunker boats. If you see a bunker boat trespassing outside of the permitted mid-Sound zone, don't delay. Report the violation immediately, if possible, to the offices of The Long Island Fisherman, (516) 667-6633. They will report the violation to the Area Enforcement Officer, Department of Environmental Conservation. Records will be kept of the violations reported and follow-up calls made to determine what action has been taken by the D.E.C.



Note: Not meant for navigation purposes (scale is not exact)

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

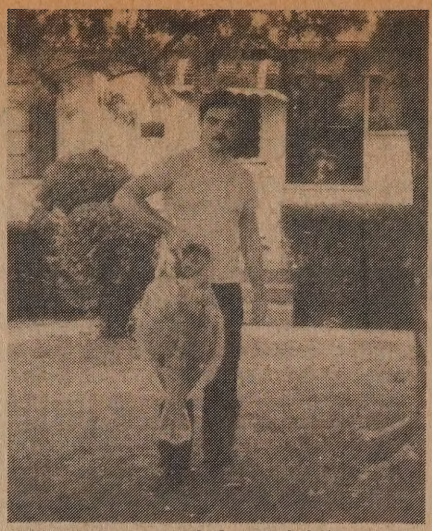
(Fishing photos must be sharp, clear, and black-white. We cannot use color prints due to printing problems, so please do not send them. Address photos to: FISHING REPORT, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.)

MONTAUK

The bluefishing is unreal at the Southwest Ledge and the Submarine buoy according to Capt. John Sweetman of the charterboat **Ebb Tide**.These fish have been taken trolling umbrella rigs with the amber colored ones being best. The blues go from 6 to 7 lbs. to lunkers. Over the weekend the Cartwright Grounds produce blues for the herring dunkers Striped bass fishing is productive only for a short early morning period.

Capt. Brad Glas on the **Helen II** reports the fluke are getting into the 4 to 8 lb. range with a few up to 12 lbs. Capt. Brad Glas if fishing between the North Rips and the Midway buoy along with his pet spot the Treasure Hole. Fishing is anywhere from 15 to 40 minutes from the dock and the fare includes all bait and needed tackle. 'big humpback sea bass are being caught with increasing frequency.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** reports excellent all around shark fishing. He has caught many large blue sharks of about 200 lbs. and beter. He has been fishing to 30 miles out and the fish seem to be moving in. While coming and going to the shark fishing they have picked up tuna. On this past rainy Friday they fished the Submarine buoy and they had 32 big blues by 10 A.M.



Jack Morgani of Central Islip took this doormat fluke on mackerel while drifting on the south side at Montauk. The fish was 17¾ lbs., 35 inches long, 18 inches wide and 3 inches thick.

Capt. Rade of the **Marlin III** returned to the Race on Fri.,Sat., and Sun., The total catch was 700 blues of 10 to 17 lbs. The fares have been going home with 2 burlap bags of fish.

The bluefish were "mohawked" at the Elbow in the latter part of Saturday morning according to Capt. Whitey Baterman of the **Four Queens**. Earlier in the morning a few striped bass were picked up.

Larry Forsberg said the **Viking Star** continues to bring home good catches of codfish from Coxes Ledge. The pool fish are generally upwards of 40 lbs.

The **Viking Starlite** is fishing half-day for fluke. 'the fish may not be as numerous as previosly but with the larger fish being caught it is still worthwhile. Nightime bluefishing remains consistent and plentiful.

Capt. George Glas of the **Hel-Cat** says the bluefishing in the Race has returned to normal with a vengenance. Bluefish upwards of 10 lbs. are eagerly taking the rigged herring bait.

Capt. Beed Dorman of the **Viking Skipper** reports excellent porgy fishing at Gardiners Island. These fish are from ½ to 3 lbs. The high hook catch has been well over 100 every day.

Joe Makley at **Lake Montauk Marina** said one of their regular boat renters had 3 fluke over 34 lbs total. Phil Green took a 14½, 12½ and a 10 lb. fluke on squid and spearing from the south side of the point.

Ronnie at **Gone Fishing Marina** reports very good to excellent porgy fishing. Twenty to thirty fish per man is the least caught. Off the point where these fish are being taken yields a double barrel fishing oppurtunity with 3 and 4 lb. fluke being taken while the tide runs and porgy fishing when it slacks.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised land fishing station** reports excellant porgy fishing at Gardiner's Island and by the fish factory. Fluking is fair at Cartwright Island. Harbor blues at ¼ to 2 lbs. continue to roam throughout the area with Cartwright being the best Tons of six inch snappers all over.

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen at **Noyac Marina** said the fishing dropped off on the rainy Friday and windy Saturday. The beautiful Sunday weather improved things somewhat and with the forecast of continued good weather fishing should improve.

SHINNECOCK

Clark Bellows Jr. on the **Capt. Clark** had a very good day Friday with fares. Billy Williams of Jamacia had 19 weaks and 23 porgies. The weaks are averaging 1½ to 3 lbs. The **Capt. Clark II** also had a good showing of the weaks and porgies. The fall run of big 3 and 4 lb. weaks are starting to show.

Quite a few marlin were baited off

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shore this weekend. There are big bluefish of 15 lbs. and up taking the skip baits while the marlin seem to be hitting feathers. All this is about 10 miles out. Along the beach are a few bluefish and not too many bass. Fluke continues good in the bay along with a few flounder. Snappers are more than plentiful.

HAMPTON BAYS

Fran Muller at **Franks Fishing Station** said there is very good fluking drifting between buoys 18 and 20. Killies and squid combo are best.

Ernie at **Bradley's Fishing Station** was ecstatic over the unbelievable fluke action. zthe bay side of the East channel or the Basket area has yielded catches of 85, 60, and 50 fluke with no catches under 30 fish. Working the incoming tide with shiners, squid, or fluke belly is best. North of the canal in The Peconic Bay Sid Bernstein loaded up on weaks. He had 55 of them along with a load of porgies. The previous Sunday he had 58. All these fish were taken on sandworms.

MORICHES BAY

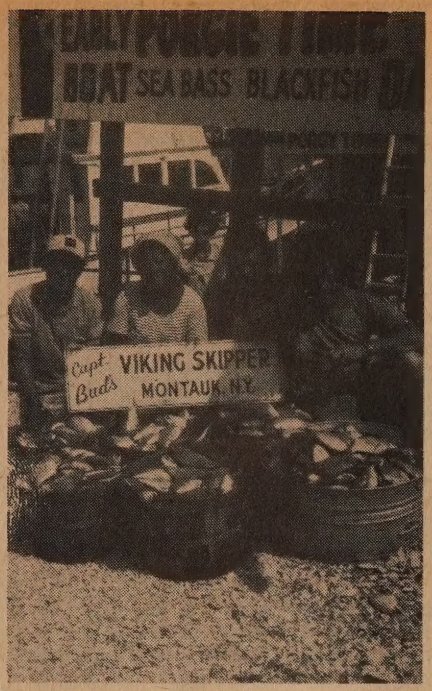
Ramona Siefert of the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** said the fluke fishing is good. They have had as many as 20 keepers per boat. On Saturday and Sunday a new school of smaller fish moved into the bay. Snapper fishing is very good along with many nice crabs.

Chet at **B&B Tackle** reports a few marlin taken in 125 feet of water this past week. Sunday saw small mako sharks of 40 to 60 lbs. taken outwards of 125 feet of water. Outside of the inlet the blues are not hitting very well for the wire liners. It seems that bait is plentiful. Fluke fishing is pretty good. Ronnie Moore with his wife and two boys fished in the West Cut Saturday afternoon and came in with a 14½ lb. fluke which took a large shiner. Striped bass fishing is slow. It is an early morning or evening thing with clams. Weakfish in the early A.M. are being caught at buoys 42 and 43. Forge River and Senix Canal are also good producers. Shad darts are one of the more productive lures. Snappers are everywhere while Great Gun Beach channel still has some flounder as well as buoy 39.

The open boat **Alma** has been doing very good on fluke in the inlet and the Old Cut and New Cut. Strips of squid and sea robin are producing an average of 5 to 7 keepers per man, not couning the many shorts being taken. Two school bass were also taken in the inlet on sea robin. After Labor Day weekend the Alma will begin sailing daily.

MASTIC BEACH

Ron at **Keenans Fishing Station** said the weakfish came back in strength over the weekend. The west side of Smith Point Bridge produced 2-3 lb. weakfish on any moving tide. Worms seem to work best. Small fluke



The four Santiago's [Lorenzo, Luz, Louis and Hector[of the Bronx pose with their catch of porgies made aboard Capt. Bud Dorman's Viking Skipper at Montauk.

and plenty of them in the channel from buoys 20 to 26. Most fluke baits are working equally well. Crabs are abundant through most of the bay.

WEST SAYVILLE

Oakdale Marina reports good fluke and weakfish around buoy 5. Squid bait seems best. Crabs are around most of the docks and in the Connetquot River. A few blues were caught some on bait and some on trolled feathers.

Good weakfish and snapper bluefish action around buoy 30 reports Dudley at **Young's zfishing Station** in Sayville. Bob Berney of Lake Ronkonkoma had weaks of 2 to 3 lbs. and snapper blues 6 to 8 inches for a total of 25. Santora and Martin families had 15 weaks. All of these fish took the reliable Salty Dog lure with squid combo.

CAPTREE

Carl Bauer of the **Capt. Whittaker** on Sunday fished the artifical reef. Bob Farrell of Elmont had a 12 lb. 9 oz. fluke and 12 others. Fluke fishing has been excellent with plenty of nice fish.

Bob Joseph of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** said the fluke fishing has been great on the outside. The fish there are larger than the bay fluke and are biting well. Night bluefishing continues at its prior good pace.

Capt. Hubert of the **Speedy V** said the night bluefishing is very good with over 500 fish some nights. Daytime blue catches have been from 3-10 fish per man with some catching less and some more. Although this was picky

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the overall catch was good. They have fished on the outside from Cherry Grove to Patchogue beach.

Capt. Richie reports exceptional good fluke fishing. Some fares over the weekend have had catches of 12 to 15 good size fluke. Most of this fishing is around the inlet. All of the fish was caught by a regular fare named hy.

Capt. Roy Mazziotta of the charterboat **Blue Albatross** has been fluke fishing this past week. The inlet area as well as the artifical reef on the outside has been very good. Fluke have run from 2-7 lbs.

LINDENHURST

According to **Dukes Tackle Shop**, Jacl Spezio of Lindenhurst had his 11th mako of the season on the Three Jays. It was taken on Saturdsay in 120 feet of water southeast of the inlet. Also on Saturday Tony Boucher has his first mako which weighed 80 lbs. He took this on a 50 lb. class custom rod made at Dukes Tackle Shop. All in 22 makos were caught on Saturday by Duke's customers. The artificial reef on the outside has plenty of fluke and 1-2 lb. sea bass. At the Mud Hole tuna and bluefishing has busted wide open. Inside the bay at the Copaigue Hole there are loads of snappers, weakfish, 1-2 lb. porgies and small sea bass.

John Schaefer at **Charlies Bait and Tackle** called to report a possible new shark record for 80 lb. class line. Louie Coccaro fishing from the charterboat Charlies Bait caught what seems to be a 550 lb. porbeagle shark but maybe a tiger. Positive identification is being undertaken. It took Louie an hour using a Penn 9/0 reel and with Capt. Tom Avelino manuevering the boat.

BABYLON

Capt. Bob Bryant of the charterboat **Shotgun Two** had 3 makos of 40 to 60 lbs. These came from 160 feet of water 140 degrees out of the Fire Island inlet. These were taken on Saturday. zthe previous Tuesday they had a 53 lb. Marlin. Wednesday saw good bluefishing on Cartwright rigs at the Cholera Banks.

Jean Principe of **Angies Tackle Shop** said the blues have been up and down on the outside. On Monday morning anglers were taking good size blues from the surf on plugs. Striped bass action has been quiet but many nice size schoolies have been taken from under the Captree bridge by using clam bellies in the early A.M. The fluke have been scattered in the bay. Snappers are being caught well from the beach and dock.

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AMITYVILLE

Combs Bait & Tackle reports excellent snapper fishing from the Town docks. Zachs Bay has the larger snappers. Fluke fishing good around Squaw Island. Joe Vanella and Ahgelo Rosello had 27 fluke of 3-5 lbs drifting from Squaw Island to the bridge with line killies. Crabbing is best eastwards of West Island towards Fox Creek. Bluefish have been very slow in the local waters with the best reports coming from Shrewbury, N.J. area. Tuna fair in 80 to 140 feet of water on cedar jigs.

SEAFORD

Dell's Fishing Station fluke on Killies west of the second bridge. Snappers all over. Crabs in very good in all the channels and canals. One-pound porgies also west of the second bridge.

Dave Piggot of the **Lucky Strike III** said the fluke were very good at Jones Inlet. They had a charter of nine people who caught a total of 31 fish ranging from 3-5½ lbs.

WANTAGH

School bass in the State Channel on clam bellies according to Frank at **Causeway Bait & Tackle**. Sand worms are also taking good size bass. Fluke are still in good at Jones Inlet on squid and killies. Snappers are terrific and getting bigger daily. Many small sea bass being taken on worms.

Kerry Hoffman, 8, lies alongside the 50 lb. bass caught with his father Mike in the State Channel at Tobay on Live bunker.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

(Fishing photos must be sharp, clear, and black-white. We cannot use color prints due to printing problems, so please do not send them. Address photos to: FISHING REPORT, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.)

FREEPORT

Capt. Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma II** said that he did vey good with small bluefish on Friday and Saturday night by Ambrose Light. Daytime bluefishing Saturday was very poor, but some tuna were trolled. Sunday daytime bluefishing was very good down by Sea Bright. It was a long ride, but worth the trip.

Capt. Steve Gabrilove of the **Sea Hunter** said that Saturday daytime was only fair with a few tuna taken. But Saturday night they clobbered the fish at the Cholera Banks. The bluefish were an average of 7 to 8 pounds. Vinnie Budzitowski took 25 fish. Sunday was slow—only 8 bluefish came aboard, but several dozen were broken off.

Capt. Lanzarotta of the **Night Owl** said that Saturday daytime they took 70 bluefish for 6 anglers off Monmouth Beach. They didn't find the fish until late afternoon, but once they did the fishing was hot and heavy. Sunday they went shark fishing and got 3 makos under 100 lbs. and an 8 foot tiger shark approximately 300-400 lbs. They chummed southeast 150 degrees about 30 miles out in 140 feet of water.

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** said that on Thursday 16 fares had 26 tuna and 40 bonito chumming. On Saturday bluefishing was slow in the morning so Richie returned to the area fished on Thursday and caught 6 tuna, 6 bonito and about 2 dozen dolphin. Then the bluefishing picked up in the afternoon at Sea Bright to round out the day. On Sunday the Starstream returned to Sea Bright and picked at 2 to 5 pound bluefish all day.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports good fluke fishing by the first bridge and in the small channels. As a bonus, anglers are taking 6 to 8 small sea bass on their fluke rigs. Snappers of 7 inches are all over the flats and in the canals. Skindivers report loads of blackfish up to 6 lbs. at the T-Wreck.

Capt. Bill of the **Gladys Bll** had a charter from the Hebrew National Foods. The eight people fished one of Bill's local wrecks and had a total of 70 fluke and no throwbacks. These fish ran from 1½ to 6 lbs. A sprinkling of porgies and sea bass were also taken. Warren Burd and his son Brad were hi-hook with 25 fluke between them.

POINT LOOKOUT

The**AnglerII** has beengoing as far as Sea Bright to score with bluefish. There's tuna and bonita all over the mudhole being taken while chumming for bluefish. The bluefishing had been poor recently, but things are looking up and it looks like the fall fishing is starting.

Ed Wardle of **Ed's Fishing Station** said that fluke fishing was good over the weekend with a number of fish over 5 pounds taken on Sunday. All along Reynolds Channel, up to and in Jones Inlet and the flats are the best spots. Snapper blues are going crazy all along the length of Reynold's Channel. Blackfishing is very good at Meadowbrook Bridge and Long Creek Bridge. Nice flounder are being taken out of Swift Creek by the sharpies. Plenty of small tuna and bonito are being trolled on red and white feathers 150 degrees out from the inlet in 110 feet of water.

LONG BEACH

The **Long Beach Sports Marina** not as many fluke around but they are getting larger. Large snappers are being taken off the docks and snapper blues are in the inlet off Silver Point. Crabbing is picking up all over the flats.

BJ's Bait & Tackle said that shore fishermen are picking up porgies and weakfish from Magnolia Pier. Blues up to 8 lbs. are being taken on Rebel swin mming plugs in 25 feet of water right outside the inlet.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Dick Broker of the **Nova IV** fished in 100 feet of water 150 degrees out of Jones Inlet Saturday. He took 12 dolphin, 2 small brown sharks, one

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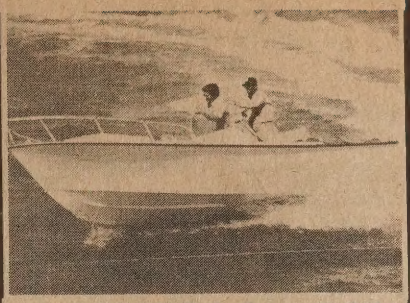

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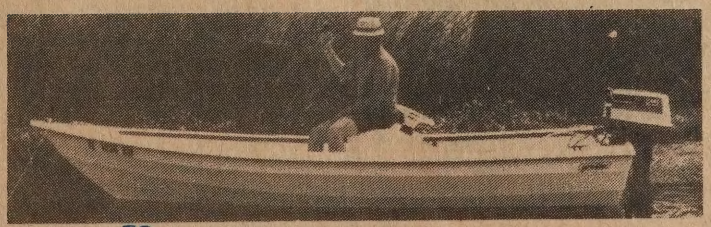

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blue shark of 100 lbs. and as 11 foot long tiger shark that took four hours to bring to gaff. Ray Schrader took the monster on a 6/0 reel loaded with 85 lb. test line on a strip of bunker. The Nova IV couldn't sail Sunday after a shaft was bent while attempting to tow a disabled vessel that had run out of gas while shark fishing. The boat will be repaired and sailing again by the weeking.

Capt. Bill of the **Ginnae-Mae** said that he went to Sea Bright to find the blues, but in general has not been killing them. A few tuna have been taken in the chum slicks.

Charlie of **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook said that there are plenty of snappers all over, especially the Bay Park Area. Fluke are spotty, but those caught are all good size. Crabbing is excellant all over the area. A few bass are being trolled outside on Bingle Bananas and Lancers.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of **Hennings Fishing Station** reports good fluking at the Long Beach High School, Cedarhurst Yacht Club and buoy 10 in the inlet. Leon said over 20 fluke in the 4 lb. category were weighed in. Average catch was 10-12 fish per boat. Plenty of snappers all over. A few small bluefish are being taken on fluke baits. Small bluefish are being taken on tubes by wire line trollers right outside the inlet in 20 to 40 feet of water. Big bluefish are being taken off Sea Bright and the NC Buoy. Several tuna have been hooked at the BA buoy but none have been landed. Bass chumming at the Atlantic Beach Bridge was very good during the week, but died on the weekend with the boat traffic.

JAMAICA BAY

Bill at **Noehren's Bait & Tackle** reports very good crabbing off the North Channel Bridge with both traps and crab nets that have long extension handles. Snappers are very good all over the area for the shore fishermen. Fluking has died off a bit but is still good. Sand porgies are plentiful off the South Channel Bridge.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Dom Palermo of the charterboat **Mary** said that he had a bluefishing charter on Saturday and did very good down with 3-4 lb. bluefish and a few bonito down at Sea Bright. Sunday he had a party that wanted to go porgy fishing. They fished the artificial reef and some of the wrecks off Rockaway and had an excellent catch.

The **Pilot II** is doing fair on bluefish Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. During the day bottom fishing is producing mixed bags of porgies, seabass and fluke.

Neil at **Stella Maris Fishing Station** reports lots of tuna and small dolphin are being taken. His nephew, Joey Lauro, went out and bagged 2 tuna and 32 dolphin chumming and using butterfish for bait. Fluke are still off Coney Island and the Ambrose Light Ship. The open and Charter boats in the area are going to Sea Bright for bluefish. 'the kids are having a ball with the 8 inch snappers that are all over the bay.

George Gnad at the Bay End Dock said that porgies are plentiful anywhere you find a rough or rocky bottom in Jamaica Bay. Weakfish up to 4 lbs. are being taken on squid strips at the Coast Guard Station by the Marine Park Bridge in Jamaica Bay. Jack Negin took on 11 pound fluke while fishing for weaks in this are. Stripers are being trolled on Bucktails and umbrells rigs right off the Rockaway Point Jetties. The bluefish range from snapper to monster size locally by trolling,

Angler Rich Lehmann of Garden City caught this 225 pound mako shark aboard Capt. Steve's charterboat Cloud Nine out of the Gone Fishing Marina. The mako was taken at 130 degrees from the point 25 miles out on 50 pound test.

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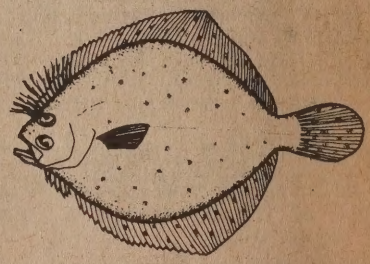
jigging and using cut pieces of mackerel. Monster blues up to 17 lbs. are taking the mackerel chunks off Norton's Point. Crabs are getting better with the best crabbing being done in the evening off bulkheads. George reported a catch of 15 school tuna and 4 dolphin taken on diamond jigs by the BA buoy. Fluke are still in the area.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of **Santo's Sport Shop** said that blues in the 9-10 lb. range are being taken from the surf on bunker backs at South Beach and the Burgher storm sewers on a steady basis. During the day the same area is producing fluke, sand porgies and an abundance of spots or lafayettes. Fluke, porgies, spots, and snappers are being taken from the rock jetty at Great Kills Park. Great Kills Harbor has plenty of blueclaw crabs, snappers and spots. A few weakfish and fluke are being taken from the surf in the Princess Bay Area. Blues averaging 10 lbs. are being trolled in the same area on Bingle Bananas. Weakfish 1½ to 4 lbs. are being taken drifting worms between buoy 4 in Annadale to the Great Kills bug light. Larger fish 3-7 lbs. are hitting bucktails — just look for the birds. Small bass in the 2 to 6 lb. class are being taken drifting sandworms between the West Bank Lighthouse and the wreck at can 15A.



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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

(Fishing photos must be sharp, clear, and black-white. We cannot use color prints due to printing problems, so please do not send them. Address photos to: FISHING REPORT, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.)

GREENPORT

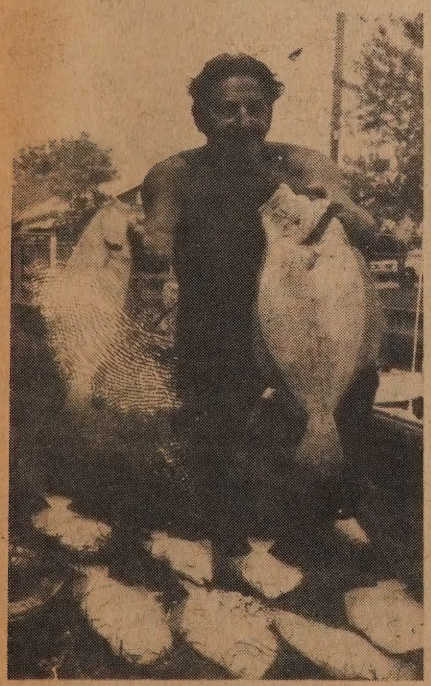
Art White's Bait Shop reports very good bluefishing at the Plum Gut, Pigeon's Rip and the Race. Striped bass are being taken at night from Plum Gut by trollers. On the Sound side the surfishermen are taking bass at night on plugs. Porgies are being caught from the breakwater in good quantity. Surfishing from Clark's Beach and the Sound are producing good size porgies.

The **Brand X** will be going after bluefish starting Saturday.

The **Wilheric** captained by Bill Jensen are really doing a number on the porgies at Gardiners Island. They have also caught quite a few blacks. Thirty to seventy fish a man is average.

ORIENT POINT

Mariam at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports very good porgy fishing at the Soputh Ferry and Greenport Jetty. Buoy 16 has loads of porgies and some weaks. Plum Gut and the race are loaded with bluefish but all they seem to want are bunker or mackerel bait.



Frank Marzullo of Freeport holds two of the dozen fluke he and his son caught off the Rockaways in 25 feet of water.

NEW SUFFOLK

According to **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** they are catching a good mixed bag of fish. Porgies are in good supply and going about ¼ lb. The weaks are getting and it looks like a good fall run coming up. Try for these south of Nassau Point around buoy 22. Snappers are plentiful while kingfish continue to be caught.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dicks Sporting Goods said the bluefishing has been pretty good this past week. They have been caught from the beach and boat. Bunker chunks on the bottom is best. Trolling about 1-½ miles out very deep with spoons or tins works out fairly well. Porgies are getting bigger and are biting well on worms.

PORT JEFFERSON

Capt. Fischer of the **Betty W** at Port Jeff said the night bluefishing is red hot again. Smithtown Bay chumming produces average 3-4 lbs. fish pool fish goes over 10 lbs. Day blues only fair. Plenty of blacks and porgies on the bottom during the day.

Stu Cash of the **Port Jeff Ace** reports the porgies are hitting real well at the Middle Grounds. Nights bluefishing is excellent while chumming and fishing whole or cut bunker about three miles out. The blues range from 2 to 13 lbs.

Blues and big ones are being caught in the harbor and even from the docks on whole bunker or chunks according to Bobby at **Plaza Sporting Goods**. Snappers are also plentiful. Porgies are good at Old Field Point where some blackfish are showing up. The Jetties at the harbor also have porgies and blacks.

NORTHPORT

The trailered charterboat **Jennie III** reports they did well on big blues on bait and artificial lures in and around buoy 11B. These blues are running to 15 lbs. Capt. Novellino had 30 blues all by himself on Friday. Saturday and Sunday saw similar results.

Mort at **Larkfield Sports Center** says find water and the blues are there. Off Lilco and in Northport Bay as wellas the Harbors the blues are taking bunker bait. A few weakfish are being taken near Duck Island.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Sid Faber of the charterboat **Baby Jean** reports they boated seven blues of between 8 & 12 lbs. They worked from Eaton's Neck to buoy 11B.

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Don Constantin of the **Ever-Ready Fleet** reports good bottom fishing continuing at a good pace. Night bluefishing took a minor downward turn and Don attributes it to poor lighting on his boat which does not keep the bait fish around. Accordingly he is now equiping his boat with new quartz-iodine vapor lamps in order to help out.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Tackle** said the bluefishing this past week was unbelievable. Blues have been in and out of all the harbors chasing bait. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday blues were taken from the surf by lures or bunker all the way from Makamah Beach to the Lilco outfal. Wire line trollers are picking them off at buoys 11B and 13 as well as the obstruction buoy off Eatons Neck.

GLEN COVE

John at **Glen Cove Sports** reports very good consistent bluefish action. Wire line trollers using 2 oz. Krocodile lures have landed blues up to 15 lbs. On Friday morning the blues invaded Glen Cove Creek and stayed until late afternoon. It was pandemonium with people falling into the water, accidently throwing gaffs and breaking rods and reels trying to get these numerous and big fish.

CITY ISLAND

Capt. Cerbone of the **New Apache** has been getting a little better size. They are fishing Smithtown Bay. A few blacks and an occasional fluke comes in.

John's Gem and Tackle reports very good bluefishing throughout the western end of the Sound. Trolling surgical tube lures and jigging has

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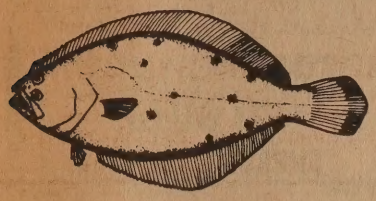
gotten big fish to 12 lbs. and better. Fishing mackeral bait close to shore in likely striped bass fishing spots are catching blues instead. Plenty of porgies and snappers around.

Edward Baldrian of the charterboat **Big Ed** out of City Island fished Little Heck Bay on Aug. 21 for blues. He had Mr. Auer and his two sons on board and between them they caught 27 blues form 5-12 lbs. All these fish were caught bunker dunking as the blues wouldn't touch a tube that day.



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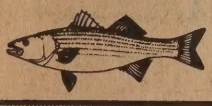

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CONNECTICUT SCENE

BYRAM

Things couldn't be better. Lots of porgies with weaks mixed in. Blues up and down the river. Bass trolling is excellent. Snappers everywhere.

ROWAYTON

Fantastic Bluefishing at the mouth of Five Mile River. Surface action is improving. Best at morning and evening.

WESTPORT

Tri-Fin Eels and bunker spoons are paying off near Northport. Blues off Compo Mamaroneck. Bunker way up inside the harbor, blues right behind them. Baits, plugs, all work.

NORWALK

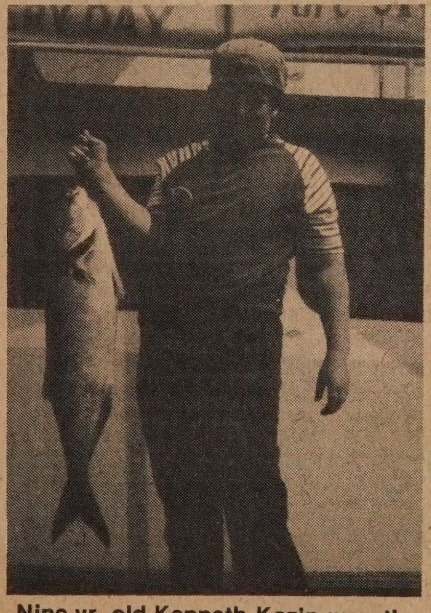
Ten to fourteen pound blues are providing action behind the Norwalk Islands. Bass have slowed but can be taken with bait and trolled lures. 'try Crane's Neck and 11B off Eatons. Night time plugging for schoolies around the Islands pays.

STAMFORD

Surface bluefish action is a regular morning affair. Poppers account for fish to 12 pounds. Cummings, Darien, and Rowayton are all producing. Bass have been mixed in. Snappers are everywhere.

MILFORD

Bass have slowed but blues are at Gulf Beach and in the Housatonic. Plugging for schoolies at night has been successful from Point Beach to Woodmont. Weaks are on the increase. Try plastic shrimp imitations.



Nine yr. old Kenneth Kozin won the pool aboard the Hel-Cat with this big Blue caught in the Race. The Little Ferry, N.J. youngster accounted for 5 choppers all by himself.

WESTHAVEN

Bluefish between Faulkners and Stony Creek. Flounders from the piers, porgies outside the breakwater.

BRIDGEPORT

Blues off St. Mary's on bait, schoolies at night off Fairfield Beach—snappers everywhere. Fluke and weaks at Pleasure Beach, Charles Island, and Silver Sands.

NEW ROCHELLE

Bunker or lures are scoring on bluefish very, very "inshore". They are way up in the harbors and creeks.

RYE

Bluefish and bunker in the harbors with action popping up an around. Porgies and snappers all over.

NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

SANDY HOOK

According to Julian's the tuna trollers bombed out, the bluefish chummers struggled, but striper action was good in the surf on live bunkers in Sandy Hook Park at early morning. Weakfish in the Chapel Hill Channel and the Shrewsburg River are hitting sandworms. Crabbing is excellent and snappers are abundant.

SEABRIGHT

Giglio's reported stripers on swimming plugs and sandworms. The Trade Wind and behind Giglio's shop are the hot-spots. Although fish are being picked all along the beach. The river is loaded with snappers. Weakfish are "here and there" along the beach.

LONG BRANCH

Steven's reports small blues along the jetties with occasional stripers mixed in. Bass are best on Creek Chub poppers and surface swimming plugs. Blues are taking Hopkins and Butter-Mullet.

Bob Romans and friends with the three mako sharks they caught aboard Capt. Ken Turco's "Lucky Strike".

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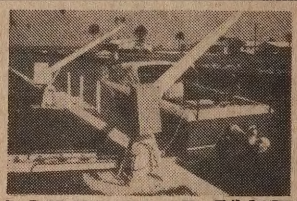

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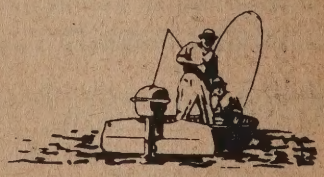

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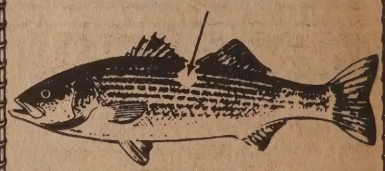

Sport fishermen are being asked to collect scale samples from striped bass for a research project initiated by the Striped Bass Fund, Inc. Taken from the area indicated by arrow; above the lateral line, between the hard and soft dorsal fins; the scales will assist in determining spawning areas of this important game fish.

Three to ten scales together with exact fork length of the fish, location and date of capture are required. If the fish is to be released, three scales are requested—ten scales from fish to be kept. Scales should be sent to: Dr. C. P. Goodyear, Environmental Science Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37840.

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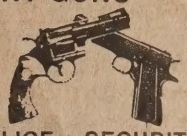

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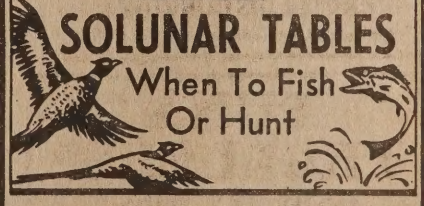

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	2:40	9:10	3:03	9:35
Fri.	3:20	9:50	3:50	10:15
Sat.	4:00	10:30	4:30	10:50
Sun.	4:40	11:10	5:05	11:30
Mon.	5:20	11:55	5:45	-
Tues.	6:05	12:15	6:30	12:40
Weds.	6:50	1:05	7:15	1:25
Thurs.	7:40	1:55	8:05	2:15

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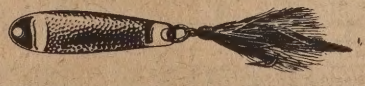

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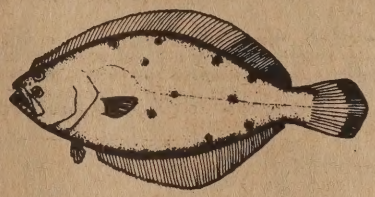

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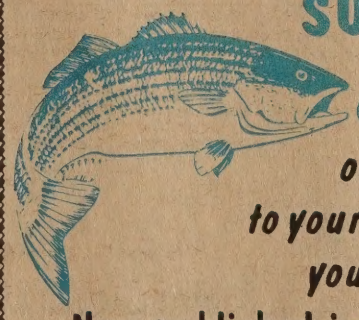

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TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
8/29 THURSDAY	6:15	6:34	8:02	8:15	10:28	10:44	9:47	10:03
8/30 FRIDAY	7:00	7:55	8:39	8:52	11:10	11:23	10:30	10:45
8/31 SATURDAY	7:40	7:55	9:15	9:27	11:45	11:54	11:09	11:25
9/1 SUNDAY	8:17	8:32	9:50	10:02	-	12:10	11:46	-
9/2 MONDAY	8:51	9:06	10:22	10:39	12:13	12:23	12:02	12:22
9/3 TUESDAY	9:24	9:40	10:58	11:13	12:29	12:42	12:38	12:57
9/4 WEDNESDAY	9:58	10:15	11:33	11:51	12:57	1:15	1:15	1:32
9/5 THURSDAY	10:33	10:52	-	12:09	1:33	1:52	1:52	2:10

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
(Inlet,Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0 00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

PHASES OF THE MOON

8-17	8-24	8-3	8-11
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

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